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NEW BLITZ PLANNED

Wehrmacht Ready For Eastward Thrust

The West German Wehrmacht is completing its preparations to wage a lightning war on the German Democratic Republic at the first suitable opportunity. Details of these plans have been given by two officers of the West German armed forces who have recently sought asylum in the German Democratic Republic.

The two officers were Major Bruno Winzer, public relations officer of the Southern Command of the West German Luftwaffe, and Captain Adam von Gliga, who had served for two years as adjutant to Lieutenant General Josef Kammhuber, Inspector General of the Luftwaffe. Both of the officers stated that they had come to the German Democratic Republic because they could no longer consent to work on the preparations for a new war of aggression.

Major Bruno Winzer was introduced to the international press corps at a press conference in East Berlin on July 8th. He said that in his official capacity he had received full information about the details of the blitzkrieg which it was planned to launch from the southern part of West Germany, the sector in which he held his appointment.

With the aid of a sketch-map, reproduced on this page, he demonstrated how the attack should be launched by strong mobile forces from the town of Hof along the frontier between the German Democratic Republik and Czechoslovakia. It was planned that these forces should rapidly reach the Oder-Neisse frontier with Poland,

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Major Bruno Winzer, late public relations officer of the Luftwaffe Southern Command in West Germany, shows the blitzkrieg plans on a map at his press conference in East Berlin. The large arrow running north-east in the centre of the map shows the planned lightning encirclement of the German Democratic Republic

(cont. from front page)

and then turn north, cutting off the German Democratic Republic from its allies in Poland and Czechoslovakia.

Simultaneously, a second Wehrmacht group should sweep through neutral Austria, encircling Czechoslovakia from the south and linking up with "resistance groups" in Hungary. The organisations of Wehrmacht veterans in Austria should hold open the roads and bridges for the West German column, which, it was planned, would be able to cross Austria in a single night.

The aim of this lightning attack would be to present the Soviet Union with accomplished facts. The West German planners hoped that the Soviet Union would then shrink from the risk of the "limited war" becoming an all-out nuclear war.

Major Winzer, who as public relations officer had access to many secret documents, stated that the military planning of the West German Wehrmacht was based upon the following assessment of the situation:

1. Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and the German Democratic Republic are essentially "western" states, and the Warsaw Pact is only a temporary arrangement.

2. These four states must be set at each others' throats and brought into conflict with the Soviet Union in order to weaken the military strength of the eastern block.

3. This task could only be tackled by military means. A state of affairs must be created which would justify intervention. This could be done by provoking local risings.

4. All military steps would have to be lightning attacks, in order to present the Soviet Union and the rest of the world with accomplished facts. The West German planners believed that the Soviet Union would then refrain from nuclear counter-measures.

Major Winzer said that the military preparations for putting the blitzkrieg plan into action were already far advanced. The special mobile units necessary were mainly concentrated in the southern sector of West Germany; the southern command of the Luftwaffe was being greatly strengthened; the main supply dumps had been established in the southern sector; and the pipelines bringing petrol from French ports to the southern sector were being rushed to completion.

Major Winzer stated that he had personal knowledge that West Germany had played an important part in making the French atom bomb. On October 16th 1958, West German Defence Minister Franz-Josef Strauss had told the public relations officers of the Wehrmacht, at a secret meeting in Munich, that France had not got the money to build its own bomb. Important negotiations were in progress between West Germany and France for cooperation in building the bomb, Defence Minister Strauss stated.

American U2 spy planes had made flights from the airfield at Spangdahlem, south-west of Bonn, Major Winzer stated. Official West German denials that anything was known about the U2 flights were false: he himself had seen a top secret Wehrmacht report in August 1958 giving full details about the espionage flights over the Soviet Union made by these by these planes.

* * *

The other West German officer, Captain Adam von Gliga, appeared on the TV of the German Democratic Republic on July 12th. He said that he had accompanied his chief, General Kammhuber, and West German defence Minister Strauss on a visit to the United States in March 1958. During this visit the American authorities had given a firm promise to provide the West German forces with tactical nuclear weapons, including "Honest John" rockets. At a meeting of the West German military delegation at which he had been present, Captain Gliga stated, General Johannes Steinhoff and Lieutenant Colonel Repenning had then played a "game" with a map of Germany, selecting targets in the German Democratic Republic at which they would like to fire Honest John rockets.

On October 31st 1958, Captain Gliga had been present at a conversation between Defence Minister Strauss and Luftwaffe General Kammhuber. Strauss stated: "For the next two years we must awaken the impression that we are the most earnest adherents of the conception of complete military, political and economic integration. During this period our own planning will have gone so far that we shall be in a position to conclude bilateral political and military pacts with the USA, though we shall naturally give the appearance of maintaining our NATO ties. Our military strength will then allow us to reach our goal of becoming the outstanding military and economic power in western Europe. We shall then be able to call the tune."

* * *

Major Winzer's revelations about the assessment of the situation made by West German military leaders were confirmed on July 8th, the day of his press conference, by the semi-official press service "Wehrpolitische Information" (Military-Political Information), published in Bonn with the support of the Ministry of Defence. This press service circulated an article arguing that the German Federal Republic was in no way provisional, but was the legal government of all of Germany and had the right to annex the German Democratic Republic. The article stated:

"The libertarian principles of the Federal Republic, which are the basis of its constitution, are certainly not provisional. Only its eastern frontier is provisional...

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Anti-Semitic Officers

Open anti-Semitism is common amongst officers of the West German Wehrmacht, Bruno Winzer, former major of the Wehrmacht, stated at a press conference in East Berlin. Lieutenant General Joachim Huth, commander of Luftwaffe Southern Command, had stated publicly that Colonel Dasher, U.S. liaison officer to West German Luftwaffe H.Q. was "a dirty little Polish Jew", and had described U.S. Lieutenant Colonel Shale Tulin, Public Relations Officer of the 4th Tactical Air Force, as "a typical Yid".

(General Huth, head of Luftwaffe Southern Command, is, like all top officers of the West German armed forces, a veteran of the nazi Wehrmacht. He commanded the "Horst Wessel" squadron of Goering's Luftwaffe.)

We should not speak of the 'reunification of the two parts of Germany' since this is not the matter at issue: our aim is to liberate from its colonial status the German territories east of the zonal frontier, and incorporate them in the German state . . ."

Major Winzer and Captain von Gliga were only two of an increasing flow of members of the West German armed forces who recently sought asylum in the German Democratic Republic. On July 16th it was disclosed that Otto Weissenberger, a cartographer who made the general staff maps for one of the main Wehrmacht commands in West Germany, had come to Democratic German bringing with him important military maps.

Herr Weissenberger, aged 53, who worked on the staff of Major General Kurt Freiherr von Liebenstein, commander of the Baden-Wuerttemberg area in West Germany, stated that his cartographical work had shown him that the entire planning of the West German armed forces was aimed at a lightning war against the German Democratic Republic and other socialist states.

Herr Weissenberger stated: "I participated in August 1959 in the NATO staff manouevre 'Side-Step' as chief map-maker for an army district. This manouevre was based on the idea that all rocket and nuclear weapons should be used at the very beginning of the coming war. Rocket launching pads in Army Command V (Baden-Wuerttemberg) were assumed to have been used for nuclear attacks on large cities in the GDR. For Baden-Wuertteemberg itself, huge evacuation measures were planned. The city population was assumed to be evacuated into the Black Forest mountain area, but in order to hold the main roads open for military movement the military police were authorised to use 'all means' to combat civilian disobedience.

"The staff of the American 7th Army, which took part in the manouevre, made the assumption that an American nuclear bomb had caused huge floods along the upper Rhine. One of the top-secret maps used showed flooding stretching as far as Frankfurt-am-Main."

(General von Liebenstein, on whose staff Herr Weissenberger served, worked as nazi military attache in Paris before World War Two, and helped to organise the fascist Fifth Column in France. During the war he commanded nazi units in the attacks on France and the Soviet Union, and later in Rommel's Afrika Korps.)

Other members of the West German armed forces who have come to Democratic Germany recently included a naval petty officer, a parachute trooper, two airmen, and a soldier from at tank regiment.

The parachute trooper, Remo Ahrt, stated that he had gone through training in guerrilla warfare at a special school. The training was based upon that given in World War Two to members of the nazi "Brandenburg Division", which became famous for the mass murders which it carried out on both sides of the front lines.

W. Germany Could Rocket All Europe

The United States authorities wish to arm the West German Wehrmacht with atomic rockets which could devastate almost the whole of Europe, both East and West. This was disclosed on July 4th by Mr. Wilber Brucker, U.S. Secretary of the Army, who said that Polaris rockets, with nuclear warheads and a range of up to 1500 miles would be given to West Germany.

The equipment of the West German Wehrmacht, already the most powerful force in western Europe, with this new weapon would mean that the nazi generals who command the Wehrmacht would be able to shoot H-bombs at Moscow, or at Glasgow.

Commenting on the news, the London "Daily Express" stated on July 6th:

"The move to arm the West Germans with H-bomb-carrying rockets capable of blasting the heart of Russia is the most dangerous act of brinkmanship yet contemplated . . . The U.S. and German claims that the missiles will go to NATO and only incidentally to (West) Germany will cut no ice in Russia or the uncommitted world . . . In short, if the deal goes through, Moscow will once more be within range of German bombs by 1962 — and this time they will be H-bombs."

Spain Vet GDR Defence Minister

Heinz Hoffmann, former officer of the International Brigade which fought for the Spanish Republic, was appointed Defence Minister of the German Democratic Republic on July 14th. His appointment means that five cabinet posts in Democratic Germany are now held by International Brigade veterans.

Heinz Hoffmann, who holds the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the People's Army of Democratic Germany, is 49, and an engineer by trade. He was one of the first German anti-fascists to reach Spain to help the Republic after the Franco revolt in 1936, and later became political commissar of the 11th (German-speaking) Brigade of the International Brigades.

After the war he helped to organise the new anti-fascist police force in the German Democratic Republic, and later the People's Army.

The previous Minister of Defence, Willi Stoph, a bricklayer by trade, was released from the post in order to devote all his energies to coodination of work between different branches of the government. He retained his cabinet post as a Deputy Prime Minister.

Nazi Arrested after England Trip

A West German town councillor was arrested on war criminal charges at the end of June, immediately after he had returned from a "friendship visit" to Hayes, Middlesex, near to London.

The arrested man, Martin Fellenz, was Free Democratic member of the town council of Schleswig. He served during the war in the SS, and is charged with having taken part in mass executions of Jews near Krakow, occupied Poland, in 1942.

Immediately before his arrest, SS officer Fellenz had been an official guest of Hayes, Middlesex. He had there conducted a West German choir in singing a "Hymn of Friendship" which he had composed himself.

West German newspapers reported Mr. William Turner, Chairman of the Hayes Chamber of Commerce, as stating: "Fellenz told me that he had been in a concentration camp, and I was very sorry for him. I never guessed that he had been one of the guards."

GDR PROTESTS KIDNAPPING

The Government of the German Democratic Republic filed official protests on July 15th with the Governments of Britain, the USA and France against the kidnapping by the West Berlin authorities of a young railwayman from Democratic Germany.

The railwayman, Lothar Kubert, aged 17, was kidnapped on June 27th by West German police when he was working on the territory of the elevated railway, known in Berlin as the "S-Bahn". The whole territory of the S-Bahn in both halves of Berlin comes under the sovereignty of Democratic Germany. The protest note called on the three western allies, by virtue of the occupation functions which they still exercise in West Berlin, to see to it that Lothar Kubert was released forthwith.

Lothar Kubert was kidnapped by West Berlin police after he had handed over to the special railway police, part of the police force of the German Democratic Republic, two young fugitives from justice who were loitering on railway property. Both the young men, who had previous convictions, were wanted for criminal offences committed in Democratic Germany.

The protest note pointed out that the kidnapping was only one of a series of provocative actions against railwaymen and railway property committed by the West Berlin authorities with the intention of increasing tension in Berlin, and preventing a solution of the West Berlin problem.

Sketching the legal position, the note stated:

"In its note of May 12th the Government of the German Democratic Republic already drew attention to the illegal actions of the West Berlin authorities on the territory of the S-Bahn ... The territory of the Reichsbahn (the state railways of the German Democratic Republic, ed.) including the S-Bahn, belongs in the whole of Berlin to the area of sovereignty of the German Democratic Republic. This means that all laws and decrees of the German Democratic Republic have sole validity on this territory.

"Since 1945, none of the occupation powers have issued, or attempted to issue, decrees or instructions affecting the validity of the laws of the German Democratic Republic on Reichsbahn territory. Order No. 8 of the Soviet Military Administration dated August 11th 1945, handing the railways over to the Reichsbahn was recognised in all sectors as fully valid. The Governments of the USA, Britain and France have rejected attempts made by the West Berlin administration to issue orders directed against the competence of the German Democratic Republic with regard to railway territory in West Berlin ...

"The provocative kidnapping of a citizen of the German Democratic Republic by the West Berlin police is an infringement of the sovereignty of the German Democratic Republic ...

"The Government of the German Democratic Republic finds it necessary to state most earnestly that responsibility for the further imprisonment of Lothar Kubert in West Berlin must be borne by those governments which exercise sovereignty in West Berlin."

Banned Communists Active

The Communist Party, which has been banned in West Germany since 1956, still leads a very active underground existence, organising opposition to the war plans of the West German Government. Josef-Hermann Dufhues, Minister of the Interior of the West German Province of North-Rhine-Westphalia stated on July 12th that illegal presses in West Germany were today printing a total of 90 different Communist weekly and monthly newspapers, with a total circulation of over half a million. In addition, Communist underground groups produce 120 factory newspapers, mostly duplicated, which circulate widely in factories and mines mainly in the Ruhr area.

Deputy Prime Minister Dies

Hans Loch, Deputy Prime Minister of the German Democratic Republic and Chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party died in Berlin on July 13th at the age of 61. Dr Loch, a lawyer by profession, was forced to emigrate to Holland during the nazi period. Immediately after the war he helped to found the Liberal Democratic Party in East Germany, and was for some years Lord Mayor of Gotha. Upon the foundation of the German Democratic Republic in 1949 he became its first Finance Minister, and later Deputy Prime Minister. A few days before his death Dr Loch had been re-elected Chairmann of the Liberal Democratic Party, a post which he had held since 1951.

Brecht Theatre Wins International Prize

The Berliner Ensemble, Democratic Germany's most famous theatre, won first prize at the 1960 International Theatre Contest in Paris. The Berliner Ensemble, founded by Bertolt Brecht, presented in Paris a number of Brecht's great plays, including "Galileo Galilei" and "The Preventable Rise of Arturo Ui", an anti-fascist satire.

In 1959 the first prize at the theatre contest in Paris was won by the East Berlin Comic Opera, directed by Walter Felsenstein.

Cuba and Democratic Germany

Economic cooperation between the German Democratic Republic and Cuba will be extended, it was officially announced in Berlin on July 6th, at the conclusion of a visit paid to Democratic Germany by an economic delegation of the Revolutionary Government of the Cuban Republic led by Dr Antonio Nunez Jimenez.

During his visit Dr Nunez Jimenez, who heads the Cuban National Institute for Agricultural Reform, stated that the Cuban Government wished to establish good relations with all nations "particularly with our good friends the socialist countries". He was firmly convinced that relations between Democratic Germany and Cuba would become closer in all ways.

Brollies Down

Prices for men's outwear, sheets, socks, umbrellas and silk yard goods were sharply cut in the German Democratic Republic at the beginning of July.

Here are a few specimens of the new prices, with the old prices given in brackets: man's overcoat 235 marks (280); man's suit 175 marks (266); crepe georgette 16 marks (21); umbrella 27 marks (42).

M. P. Inside GDR Gaol

Emrys Hughes Sees For Himself

On May 26th the "Guardian" of Manchester printed a report alleging that frightful conditions prevailed in prisons in the German Democratic Republic. During June Mr Emrys Hughes, Labour M. P., had an opportunity to visit Brandenburg Prison, the gaol particularly criticised by "The Guardian". Here is the full text of an article by Mr. Hughes describing his visit, as published in "The Guardian" on July 6th:

"If you are prepared to stay for another day you can visit our prisons and see for yourselves." This was the reply the group of Scots Labour M. P. s visiting East Germany received from Mr Schwab, the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, when they raised with him the question of the treatment of political prisoners in East German gaols.

In the first place he denied that "political" prisoners was the correct description. People were not imprisoned in East Germany for their political opinions. The people who were in prison, he argued, had been sentenced for espionage, sabotage, and similar criminal activities against the State.

We pointed out to him that alarming reports about conditions in East German prisons had been published in the British press and especially that political prisoners were starving in the prisons and that conditions were getting worse. He replied that last year one of the international organisations at Geneva had recently reported on the East German prisons and he referred us to this report. I handed him the "Guardian" of May 26 with the article headed "Political prisoners on starvation diet, Worsening conditions in East German gaols." It was then that he declared that we could visit the prisons to see for ourselves.

So the next morning I found myself speeding down the autobahn to Brandenburg accompanied by the colonel of the People's Police who is in charge of East German prisons. When I saw him in his uniform with two bars of medals I assumed that he was an old Army officer. I was wrong. He had not been in the Army but he had been ten years in prison (from 1935 to 1945 under the Hitler regime) and his medals were for courage in the struggle against the Nazis and for subsequent service in the police. He had served his ten years in Waldheim Prison. He had been arrested as an active Social Democrat and release had come with the advance of the Soviet Army.

"Prisons are prisons", he said, "and you do not expect to be fed on plum pudding in prison." But he indignantly denied the stories that had appeared in "Welt der Arbeit" on which the "Guardian" report was based. I questioned him closely, paragraph by paragraph, on the allegations about starvation and illtreatment in Brandenburg. One of the first statements, he said, was quite untrue. The ex-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr Dertinger, was not even in Brandenburg. And this being so, what reliance could be placed on the rest of the statements in the article? It would be an easy matter for someone who was hostile to the D. D. R. to write up an article based on second-hand information from an ex-prisoner, but there was just no truth in the general picture that had been painted of conditions in the prison.

When we reached Brandenburg Prison half a dozen of the chief officers of the prison were waiting in the governor's room. I asked who they were. There was the security officer, the administration officer, the political and cultural officer, the county administrator, and the party secretary, and the officer in charge of the prison factories. They were all in uniform and it reminded me of one of my old courts-martial. Only now I was the court-martial. "How many of you were here under the Nazi regime?" was my first question. Not one of them was the reply. All the old staff had been sacked when the Hitler regime disappeared.

They were all intelligent men and answered quickly the many questions I put them from different angles. When I asked for documents they were immediately obtained. I asked for the prison dietary and for the death certificates of those who had died this year and last year in the prison. I concentrated on the statement that had appeared in "Welt der Arbeit" that "inhuman conditions and reduced food rations have resulted in a rapidly increasing death rate" and which continued: "Naturally no figures are available since deaths are often not reported to relatives and corpses are incinerated."

The death certificates showed that there had been one death in the prison this year and four last year from natural causes. As there were about two thousand men in the prison, including a percentage of elderly men, it was not a higher death rate than that outside. I asked if there were a prison chaplain, and he was brought in. He was a pastor of the German Evangelical Church. He held regular services in the prison and a Roman Catholic priest did so as well. He corroborated what had been already said by the prison officers. There was no truth in the statement of a high death rate caused by starvation. I handed him over the article and watched him carefully as he read it. He read it with obvious incredulity and said that the allegations were quite untrue.

I asked about the report that there was only one prison doctor for 2,000 men. They pointed out that in addition to the regular doctor (and an additional one that was being appointed) there were visiting doctors, who were specialists on tuberculosis, heart disease, and other ailments; that there were also a visiting dentist, an optician, and a

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psychiatrist. Later on I visited the hospital and found that there were also prisoners with medical experience acting as orderlies.

I spent about three hours visiting different parts of the prison and interviewing prisoners. I questioned many of them, separately, and they told me why they were there. The first man I picked out (I had tried to find the most intelligent men, those who did not look the usual hardened criminal type) was one doing a nine years' sentence for collecting information for the British Intelligence who West Berlin. There were others who were doing similar sentences who said they had been employed as spies for the Americans. Others had been sentenced for sabotage. An agronomist, from the Erfurt district, was serving a nine years' sentence for having planned his farming area according to Western methods, and I found the ex-director of a sausage factory who had been found guilty of sabotage on the sausage front.

These sentences reflected the outlook and tensions of a State facing internal opposition and social strain. From our point of view the sentences were harsh and severe. The prison officers said they were not responsible for the sentences of the Court, their job was to run the prison. None of the prisoners complained of starvation or ill-treatment. Perhaps they were afraid or thought it was not worth their while. They might have been wondering what kind of intelligence officer or agent provocateur I was.

I visited some of the cells, being careful to avoid the cells that were opened by the officers. They were bigger cells than ours with sometimes half a dozen men to a cell. In the little cupboards they had food which had been bought from wages and I saw extra bread, margarine, tins of meat and fish, and dried fruit. The diet for the day was: breakfast: bread and coffee; midday meal: vegetable stew, potatoes, vegetables, and meat; supper: bread, margarine, and sausage, sugar and tea. Then there was the extra they could buy from the canteen. I can claim to have seen only a cross-section of the prison population, but what I saw, and I went where I insisted, did not support the allegation of starvation.

I have been a prisoner myself in half a dozen British gaols and have also been a visiting magistrate in Glasgow and have an idea of what to look for, and I cannot say that this prison was any worse than Barlinnie or Wormwood Scrubs or any other big British prison.

There were murderers, thieves, homosexuals, and men sentenced for the kind of crimes that we find in every prison in Europe and America. The prison routine except on the special emphasis laid on reformative work, was little different. Prisoners could earn remission of their sentences by good conduct, borrow books from the prison library, and at intervals receive visitors and letters. And there was a prison choir and an orchestra. Prisons are grim places anywhere (except to those who are there dedicated to some cause) and I have no doubt that somebody who has been in Brandenburg could tell stories similar to those one reads sometimes in our own Sunday papers.

I told the prison officers at Brandenburg that an amnesty for prisoners in East Germany would create a good impression here. They said that would come if fears of war between East and West died down and tensions were relaxed and espionage ceased. They too would be glad to see the the prisons emptying. Let us hope that this will come soon.

LONDON "ECONOMIST" IS IMPRESSED

British Look at GDR Progress

One of the declared objectives of the Democratic Republic's seven-year-plan (1958-1965) is to overtake West Germany "in consumption per head of the most important industrial consumer goods and foodstuffs by the end of the year 1961." Cautiously worded as it is, this seemed a fantastic promise when it was first made nine months ago in the circumstances of deprivation then prevailing. Yet this summer it is plain for all to see that the East Germans are once again enjoying most of the creature comforts the lack of which since the war has provoked so much headshaking among their luckier kin in the west. The men, the women, and the children are wearing markedly better clothes. There are more private cars and motor-bikes on the roads. There are generally more goods in the shops, not merely in the shop windows. The average German's conception of a square meal — plenty of fresh meat or sausage, and beer or wine — is procurable anywhere at a reasonable price. At teatime in the state-run cafés of Dresden, Halle, Cottbus, or Rostock, you can see the same sort of people tucking into the same hunks of cake topped with whipped cream, listening to the same music in the same sort of solid setting, that you can see at teatime in the cafés of Stuttgart, Hanover, Krefeld, or Bremen.

The East Germans still have their grumbles — the continuing scarcity of fresh fruit and vegetables (bananas, when they can find them, fetching ls. 6d. and oranges 10d. apiece), and, among the increasing number of those who can afford such luxuries, the delay in the delivery of cars, television sets, and refrigerators. But the planners confidently claim that these deficiencies will shortly be made good. As for satisfying the pressing need for new houses, the promise is more modest, namely that "the shortage is to be overcome for the most part by 1965". The building programme is now lagging by some 20 per cent.

The beatific certitude with which the regime maps the Democratic Republic's rate of march to the promised land rests not only on its belief in the superiority of communist practice, but also on the scale of communist international co-operation, in which East Germany is increasingly sharing. The Luebbenau-Vetschau power station, whose faintly smoking chimneys are a landmark for miles around Cottbus, is, for example, already linked with the international electricity grid of the communist countries. Controlled centrally from the lower Volga, the grid can pool, as required, electric-power from Eastern Germany, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary, Roumania, and Bulgaria, with that from Soviet stations. The grid is to be operating fully in 1965. By then, it is claimed, the Luebbenau-Vetschau plant will have expanded enormously. The refineries that are now being built at Schwedt, on the Polish border near Frankfurt-on-Oder, will be ready in 1963 to handle the first oil arriving by pipeline from the Soviet fields near Kuybyshev, 2,500 miles away. Schwedt is to be able to deal with four million tons of crude oil each year by 1965, and, if all goes well, eight million

tons by 1970. The bulk of the refined oil will be absorbed by the chemical industry.

The most important part allotted to East Germany by the communist countries' council for economic aid (Comecon), is that of principal supplier of chemicals and their derivatives, but also a considerable quantity of drugs. This is why the headquarters of Comecon's standing committee for the chemical industry have been set up in East Berlin. For the good reason that it is investing heavily in the project, the Soviet Union is highly interested in enjoying its fruits. According to a talkative, medium weight technician at one of the big chemical plants near Halle, the Russians have so far supported this department of Comecon planning with credits worth altogether DM 500 million (east). At the more knowledgeable but more reticent East German state planning comission in Berlin, they say that the Soviet Union, bent on expanding its own plastics industry, granted credits worth DM 200 million (East) in 1958 specifically to help the Democratic Republic set up new plant for the production of polyvinyl chloride by the beginning of 1961, and then increasingly more until the debt has been paid.

Undoubtedly the Russians are also lending a hand in the development of the huge brown coal combine at Schwarze Pumpe, near Cottbus in Saxony, where the rich local deposits — enough for the next sixty years — are being processed largely on the spot (because 60 per cent of lignite is composed of water) into gas and solid fuels and such valuable industrial chemicals as tar and creosote. The catalogue of present developments in the chemical industry is too long to fit into the space of a general article. But it is worth mentioning that East Germany now has the largest plant in Europe for making sulphuric acid from anhydrite, a plentiful ore chemically related to plaster of paris. Production here is to reach 300,000 tons annually by 1963. Sulphuric acid stays at home, and so, for the time being, does virtually the whole of the Democratic Republic's fertiliser production. In short, the prime sources of national wealth are being so intensively and ambitiously cultivated that only the catastrophe of war could now interrupt the East German's improving daily lot.

Of course, there are difficulties, miscalculations, and hitches. As a rule, one hears only of the first. They arise mainly from a lack of the means of investment, of hard coal (hence the frantic exploitation of lignite, at present the source of 90 per cent of the Republic's energy), of good quality steel, of an adequate transport system (electrification of the railways is now being energetically tackled), and of chemical equipment. Even more troublesome is the shortage of both skilled and unskilled labour, which is being constantly aggravated by the unceasing exodus to the west.

("The Economist", London, June 25th 1960)

. . . and even the "Wall Street Journal" could scare forbear to cheer. . .

Behind the barricades of East Germany's 875-mile frontier with West Germany, there are many signs that life for the average citizen is getting better.

Massive housing programs are providing cheap apartments. The quality of clothing, shoes and appliances is rising, along with output. The real income of consumers is trending upward.

Says a United Nations economic study: "The rise in real wages in Eastern Germany in 1959 seems to have been the highest in any country for which data are yet available."

East Germany, however, measures its gains from a smaller base than do nations of West Europe. Living standards still are considerably lower in East Germany than they are in West Germany, and East Germans still face shortages of many types of consumer goods.

Gains in East Germany, nonetheless are both real and sizable. Industrial production last year rose 12.3% over 1958, compared with estimated gains of 5.7% in booming West Germany and about 3% in the U.S. And with total East German investment in industry scheduled to rise by 16% in 1960, more gains are expected. In Dresden, a new jet aircraft industry is getting under way. Railroad cars are rolling from a big new plant at Zwickau. Near Rheinsberg, a 70,000 kilowatt atomic power plant is scheduled to "go critical" in 1963. At Rostock on the Baltic Sea, a silty harbor is being deepened and wharves are being constructed for a big new national port.

("Wall Street Journal", New York, June 23rd 1960)

More Light

Democratic Germany's consumption of electrical power was among the highest in the world, according to statistics released recently in the United Nations' statistical yearbook for 1959. The figures, which showed very large increases for all the socialist countries in the years between 1951 and 1958, especially when compared with the rate of growth in the other countries, gave the following details:

Per capita energy consumption (in coal equivalent):

United States	7.6 tons
Canada	5.2 tons
Britain	4.7 tons
Czechoslovakia	4.7 tons
Democratic Germany (GDR)	4.3 tons
Belgium-Luxembourg	3.8 tons
Australia	3.6 tons
Sweden	3.0 tons
Soviet Union	2.9 tons

Free Offer

A young chicken-farmer from Democratic Germany is the cover girl on the latest issue of GDR Review, illustrated monthly published in Dresden. A sample copy of the latest issue of this magazine, dealing largely with the changing face of the countryside in the German Democratic Republic, together with particulars of how to subscribe, will be sent free on application to:

GDR Review
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BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

GERMAN REPORT herewith launches a campaign to re-habilitate Hitler, following the opening of a West German campaign to present as "anti-nazi resistance fighters" key anti-Semitic officials of the nazi state.

Hon. Terence Again

Acting as West Germany's agent in this rather nasty campaign is the Honourable Terence Prittie, tame correspondent in Bonn for "The Guardian" of Manchester, which long ago in the years before World War Two played such a valuable part in telling the world what nazism really meant. Those years are long past, and on June 17th this year the ineffable Prittie published what he proudly announced was "the first full length interview" ever given to the press by Dr. Hans Globke, top Jew-hater in the West German Government. Let us see what Prittie (and Globke) had to say:

"Communist propaganda has already played a big part in securing the resignation of the Federal Minister of Refugees, Professor Oberlaender (most decent people would agree that this was a very good thing, J. P.); its main weight is now being directed against the Federal Minister of Transport, Herr Seebohm, and there are plenty of other names on the Communist 'black list'. (Put into plain language this means that there are still a lot of men with black nazi records in the West German hierarchy, J.P.)

Target for Tomorrow

"High on that list, and probably the next to be singled out for attack is Dr Hans Globke, the Secretary of State in Dr Adenauer's Federal Chancellery, who is regarded by many as the most powerful man in Western Germany after the Chancellor himself. Dr Globke has held this post since 1953. For seven years he has been Dr Adenauer's closest confidant and friend . . . Dr Globke is a convenient target for Communist propaganda. In 1935 he was called upon to do the commentary to the infamous Nuremberg 'racial laws' which were theoretically designed to protect the 'pure-bloodedness' of the 'Aryan German race'.

"In the first full length interview which he has given to a member of the press, Dr Globke told me of the reasons which dictated his actions during the Nazi era . . .

"Dr Globke, who was an expert on constitutional affairs in the Reich Ministry of the Interior, was instructed to draw up his commentary on the racial laws by the Secretary of State in the Ministry, Hans Stuckart (incidentally an SS general, J. P.) The commentary was to be, in fact, the official Government interpretation of how these laws would work. As such it provided guidance for the German Law Courts which had to decide what categories of Jews should, or should not, be allowed to marry 'Aryan Germans'. 'Looking back', Dr Globke told me in his office in the Palais Schaumburg, 'I realise that I might have refused to write the commentary. I was impelled by two reasons to write it — I believed that the Nazi regime might become more liberal as time went on, and I knew that I could at least water down some of the ideas in Herr Stuckart's head.'

"Concessions"

"He managed to exclude from the 'marriage ban' people who were one-quarter Jewish . . . He secured concession for 'half Jews' with the help of the Ministry of Defence — admittedly on the purely material grounds that half-Jews were needed for the call up to the reserve of armed forces in the event of war. 'I could still have resigned at this time' Dr Globke told me. 'But if I did, then one thing at least was sure. Herr Stuckart would have redrafted my commentary. I believed that it was my duty to stay at my post and give what little help I could to those people whom the Nazis were persecuting.' . . .

"During the war years Dr Globke played a useful if unspectacular part in the German resistance to Hitler."

It will be noted that this claim to "unspectacular resistance work" is not supported by any evidence. It would be interesting to know whether Mr Prittie considers that Dr Globke's wartime drafting of a memorandum proposing the integration in Greater Germany of the whole eastern third of France was "resistance work". This memorandum was produced in evidence at the Nuremberg War Crimes Trial as Document RF No. 602.

Hot News

After reading Mr Prittie's interview with Dr Globke, GERMAN REPORT sent a reporter to a reliable spiritualistic medium. After the usual knockings and ectoplasmic materialisations, the medium established direct contact with the spirit of Adolf Hitler. Here is our reporter's story:

"In the first full length interview which he has given to a member of the press, Adolf Hitler told me of the reasons which dictated his actions during the nazi era. 'I am high on the list of those singled out for attack by Communist propaganda', Hitler said. 'Looking back I realise that I might have refused to continue to occupy the post of Reich Chancellor. I was impelled by two reasons to continue in that post — I believed that the nazi regime might become more liberal as time went on, and I knew that I could at least water down some of the ideas held by Adolf Eichmann and Heinrich Himmler. I might have resigned, but if I did, then one thing at least was sure. Himmler would have taken over, and I believed that it was my duty to stay at my post and give what little help I could to those people whom the nazis were persecuting.' During the war years, Hitler said, he had played a useful though rather spectacular part in the resistance movement, sabotaging the German war effort by chewing carpets of strategic importance."

Unmoralled Tale

"The llama has chosen freedom" — these dread words spread on July 10th amongst the staff of the nationally-owned Aeros Circus, which has erected its tents in East Berlin a few hundred yards from the sector border to West Berlin.

One of the South American animals in the show had in fact made his escape from socialist thralldom. With a sure nose for news values, the panting llama did not dally, but headed through the Brandenburg Gate to the "free west", hotly pursued by intrepid stable-boys. With the aid of a West Berlin police squad car, they finally cornered the llama, and led him back to the circus. Believe it or not, but the llama was caught in West Berlin's "John Foster Dulles Allee". There should be a moral to this story, but I can't find it.

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